By the King.

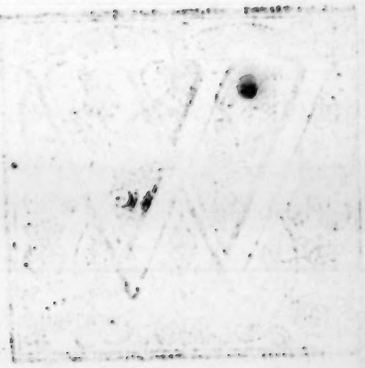
A Proclamation for the restraining of the Importation of Iron Wyer into this Kingdome, and for the Support of that Manufacture.

WHereas Iron Wyer is a Manufacture long practiſed within this Realme, and by that Trade and Myſtery many thouſands of Our louing Subiects haue been for a long time well and honeſtly employed and ſet on worke; And by meanes thereof, great numbers of expert and skilfull men in that Arte and Science haue been trained vp, who are now deſtitute of any other profeſſion or meanes whereby to get their liuings.

And whereas Engliſh wyer, being made of the toughest and beſt Oſmond Iron, (a native Commoditie of this Kingdome) is of much better vſe, then that Iron wyer which commeth from forreine parts, eſpecially for the making of good Wooll Cardes, without which no good Cloth can be made: And this hath appeared vnto Vs, by the Certificates of diuers Clothiers, Card makers, Card-wyer-drawers, and the Farmors of Our Cuſtomes, to whom the examination thereof hath been referred.

And whereas by the wyer-drawers of diuers parts of this Our Kingdome, ſundry complaints haue been made vnto Vs, that by reaſon of the great quantities of forreigne Iron wyer lately imported into this Our Realme of England (whereof alſo a great part is falſly and deceitfully made and wrought) Our ſayd poore Subiects who make Iron wyer cannot be ſet on worke in their Vocations of wyer-making and wyer-drawing, nor are able to continue in the exerciſe of their ſayd Trades, whereby ſo commendable and profitable an Arte is like wholly to be loſt in this Our Kingdome, and the makers of wooll-Cards are much detained by that forreigne wyer; and they who vſe thoſe Cards much more: Whereby great preiudice will ariſe to vs and Our people, and to the whole Trade of Clothing within this Realme, except ſome ſpeedy courſe be taken for redreſſe of ſo great an inconuenience.

We well weighing the danger and preiudice that may happen to this Our Kingdome, by being ſerued onely from forreigne parts, with a Commoditie of ſo great neceſſitie, and continuall vſe as wyer is, either in time of warre, when little or none can be imported, or elſe when forreigne parts ſhall finde other Markets or Vents for that Commoditie, or when at their owne pleaſures they may raiſe their prices vpon Vs, or ſerue Vs, with falſe and vnſeruice-



able wyer, which would tend much to the dishonour of this Our Nation, and disaduantage of Us and Our louing Subiects.

And finding that sundry good Lawes and Statutes haue formerly been made, prohibiting the Importation of forreigne Wool-cards, and of the said forreigne Iron wyer, and diuers other Manufactures made of wyer, for the better cherishing & encouraging of so profitable and necessary a Manufacture within this Kingdome, but that the execution of those good Lawes hath of late beene much neglected; we taking these things into Our Princely consideration, by the aduice of Our Priuy Councell, haue thought fit as well to prohibite the Importation of forreigne Iron wyer, and Cards made of forreigne wyer, and of Hookes and Eyes, and other Manufactures made of Iron wyer onely, as to prouide that all Cards made within these Our Kingdomes and Dominions be well and substantially made, without any fraud or deceit: Doe therefore hereby straitly Charge and Command all and singular person and persons whatsoeuer, as well Our owne naturall borne Subiects, as Denizens and Strangers, that none of them, nor any other person or persons whatsoeuer, do at any time or times hereafter attempt or presume to bring, or cause to be brought into these Our Realmes of England or Ireland, or any other Our Dominions, or into any the Ports, Hauens, Creekes or Places of any of thē, any forreigne Iron wyer, or Cards made of forreigne Iron wyer, or other Manufactures aforesaid, in greater or lesser quantities, made or to be made in any forreigne Part or Place whatsoeuer, or any Wool Cards made within this Kingdome, and which haue once been exported from hence, vpon paine of forfeiture of all and euery quantity and quantities of the said forreigne Iron wyer, and Cards made of forreigne wyer, & of other the Manufactures made onely of wyer as aforesaid, so brought or caused to bee brought into Our said Realmes and Dominions, contrary to this Our Royall Commandement.

And Our will and pleasure is, that all such forreigne Iron wyer, and Cards made of wyer, and Manufactures of wyer aforesaid, which shall bee imported contrary to these presents, shall by such person and persons, who shall seize the same, be forthwith carried and conueyed into Our Custome House within Our Port of London, and other Custome-houses of that Port where the same shalbe seized, without selling, vttering, compounding, or deliuering any part thereof, before the same be thither brought and deliuered as aforesaid, vpon paine of Our high indignation & displeasure, and of such further paines, penalties and punishments as by the Lawes & Statutes of this Our Realme, or Our prerogatiue Royall for the contempt of Our commandement in this behalfe, can or may any way be inflicted vpon them, or any of them so offending, contrary to the true intent & meaning of these presents: And to that end and purpose, wee doe hereby require and command all and singular the Officers of Our Customes, or attending the same, within all & euery the Ports & Hauens of these Our Realmes and Dominions, and the Creekes and Members of the same Ports, that they and euery of them do from and after the date hereof at all times forbeare to take any entry, or entries, or to take or make any composition or compositions for any Custome, Subsidie, or other Dutie, for, or vpon any forreigne wyer, or Cards made of forreigne wyer, or other the Manufactures made onely of Iron wyer as aforesaid, brought or to be brought into these Our Realmes or Dominions from any forreigne parts. And also that they and all, and euery other Our Officers and Ministers doe stay and seize the same, as forfeited and confiscated, to the vse and vses hereafter specified, vpon paine of forfeiture of their Offices, and of vndergoing Our high indignation and displeasure for their neglect herein, with such further paines and punishments as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Our Realme, or by Our Prerogatiue Royall for the same their contempts and defaults, may any way be inflicted vpon them.

And whereas an vſe or cuſtome hath lately crept into this Kingdome by ſome ill diſpoſed perſons more regarding their owne priuate gaine and lucre, then the good of the Common-wealth, to buy vp old caſt Cards within this Kingdom, and doe ſcowre, tranſlate, and trim vp the ſame, and ſell them againe to vnskilfull countrey people for new Cards; by meanes whereof the Cloth made of wooll carded with ſuch Cards is falſified to the great loſſe and hinderance of the Clothier, the deceit and preiudice of Our Subiects, who doe buy and weare the ſame, and to the diſcredite of the trade of Clothing, being the chiefeſt and richeſt Commoditie of this Our Kingdome.

Theſe are therefore further to require and command, that no perſon or perſons doe at any time or times hereafter attempt or preſume to Buy, Sell, Barter, Vent, or put to ſale within any of our ſaid Kingdomes, or Dominions, or to export into any forreigne parts any old caſt wool-Cards whatſoeuer, vpon paine of forfeiture and confiſcation thereof, & ſuch other paines, penalties and puniſhments, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme, or by Our Prerogatiue Roial can or may be inflicted vpon them. But that the ſame old Caſt wool-Cards being offered to ſale be ſeized to Our vſe, by any Our Officers or Subiects, and to be brought into Our Cuſtome-houſes within Our Port of London, or other Ports aforeſaid.

And to the end Our intention herein may take the better effect; Our Will and command is, and We do hereby declare Our pleaſure to be, that ſuch perſon and perſons as ſhall make ſeizure of any of the ſaid forreine Iron wyer, or of any Cards made of any forreigne wyer, or manufactures made of Iron wyer only, or of any old caſt wool-Cards, tranſlated or trimmed vp, and put to ſale as aforeſaid, contrary to Our Royal commandement herein ſignified, ſhal haue and receiue to his or their owne vſe or vſes, one moyetie or halfe part of the ſaid Iron wyer, or Cards made of forreigne wyer, or old caſt wool-Cards, or other Manufactures made of wyer onely as aforeſaid, ſo by him or them ſeized or to be ſeized, as aforeſaid, the other moyetie thereof to be reſerued to Our vſe.

And for the better execution of this Our preſent Will and Commandement, We do ſtraitly charge and command all Iuſtices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Conſtables, Headboroughs, Tithingmen, & all other Our Officers, Miniſters & louing Subiects, to Whō it ſhall or may appertaine, that they and euery of them, at all time and times hereafter, & from time to time be aiding and aſſiſting to Our ſaid Cuſtomers, Collectors, Searchers, waiters, & to all other perſon and perſons imployed for the ſearching in any ſhip, houſe, ware-houſe or Celler, and for ſeizing, taking, and carrying away of all and euery ſuch Iron wyer, and Cardes made of forreigne wyer, and other manufacture made of wyer imported, or hereafter to be imported contrary to this Our Royall prohibition and commandement. And if any ſhall offend herein, or bee found remiſſe or negligent in the execution of the premiſſes, and notice thereof be giuen to Our Attorney generall for the time being, that hee doe proceed againſt all and euery perſon and perſons ſo offending, in Our high Court of Starre-chamber, or in any other Our Courts of Iuſtice, or otherwiſe, by ſuch wayes and meanes as are by the Lawes, or Statutes of this Realme prouided againſt ſuch as ſhal offend herein, contrary to the Law, and contrary to Our Royall commandement.

Giuen at Our Court at White-hall the ſeuenth day of May, in the ſixt yeere of Our Reigne.

God ſaue the King!

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